



hoekstra.house.gov

E-Newsletter, July 8, 2008

Hoekstra Introduces Flexibility Bill

U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra has introduced H.R. 6400, the State Temporary Economic Priority (STEP) Act, which would provide states with the flexibility to direct federal transportation, education and job training funds toward their most important priorities during periods of economic downturn.

The STEP Act would lift federal restrictions for at least two years on certain federal transportation, education and workforce training grants when the country experiences less than 1 percent of economic growth for two consecutive quarters.

Michigan currently receives 31 percent of its budget from the federal government. The legislation would help free state leaders to address their needs creatively rather than adhering to restrictive requirements from Washington.

Hoekstra Votes to Avert Medicare Payment Cuts

Hoekstra voted in support of H.R. 6331, the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act, which averts many of the Medicare payment cuts and regulations that were scheduled to take place on July 1, 2008. The cuts were delayed until July 15 in the anticipation of a Senate vote.

H.R. 6331 includes a number of key provisions that will maintain patient access and improve reimbursement to Medicare providers including:

- Preventing the 10.6 percent physician payment cut and increasing their payments through 2009.
- Improves reimbursements to pharmacists under the Medicare and Medicaid program.
- Extending the exception process for Medicare rehabilitation therapy caps.

The bill was necessary to prevent health care providers from leaving the Medicare program and therefore limiting patient access to care and services.

The Netherlands Honors Hoekstra

Hoekstra the Congressional Caucus on the Netherlands Chairman, was appointed as an Officer in the Order of Orange-Nassau during a ceremony in Washington, D.C. by Dutch Ambassador Chirstiaan Kröner.

The Order of Orange-Nassau was created in 1892 as a royal honor by the Dutch monarchy to recognize extraordinary service to society. Her Majesty the Queen is Grand Master of the Order. All nominations for the Order of the Orange-Nassau are elevated on a national basis by the Civil Honors Advisory Commission of the Netherlands.

Hoekstra emigrated from the Netherlands with his parents in 1956 and became a naturalized U.S. citizen at 9 years old, making him the only Dutch immigrant serving in Congress.

For more information on Pete's activities in Washington, D.C. please visit <http://hoekstra.house.gov>

Washington, D.C.
2234 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
(P) 202-225-4401
(F) 202-226-0779

Holland Office
184 S. River Ave.
Holland, MI 49423
(P) 616-395-0030
(F) 616-395-0271

Muskegon Office
900 Third St., Suite 203
Muskegon, MI 49440
(P) 231-722-8386
(F) 231-722-0176

Cadillac Office
210 1/2 N. Mitchell St.
Cadillac, MI 49601
(P) 231-775-0050
(F) 231-775-0298